

9. The method of claim 6 further comprising periodically determining whether the phase transition point has changed reliable to the packet output rate and resetting the packet output rate accordingly.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the phase transition point corresponding to a change in buffer occupancy from a normal level to a level at or near a maximum buffer capacity.

11. A method, comprising setting an inter-packet transmission time for a control node in a network according to buffer occupancy levels in the control node.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the inter-packet transmission time is set to a point corresponding to a phase transition in the buffer occupancy levels.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the phase transition corresponds to a change in buffer occupancy from a nominal level to a level at or near a maximum buffer capacity.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising resetting the inter-packet transmission time according to variation in the phase transition point.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the phase transition point is determined by monitoring the buffer occupancy level for variable inter-packet transmission times.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the inter-packet transmission times are varied according to one of: an algorithmic search process, a search process that sweeps from high inter-packet transmission times to low inter-packet transmission times, or a search process that sweeps from low inter-packet transmission times to high inter-packet transmission times.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the inter-packet transmission times are varied according to a decreasing function.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the function decreases monotonically.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the function comprises an exponential function.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the function comprises an exponential function.

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